

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY OSD/MRA&L - MR. HARRINGTON
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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MARR

SUBJECT: FY 1978 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION

1. DURING HEARINGS REGARDING THE FY 1978 MILITARY
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST IT BECAME
EVIDENT THAT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WERE DEVELOPING
A HARDENING RESISTANCE TO BOTH FURTHER US PREFINANCING
OF SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY CONSTRUCTION NEEDS IN THE
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EUROPEAN AREA, AND AN INCREASING IMPATIENCE WITH
WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS INORDINATE DELAYS IN SLICE
PROGRAMMING AND RECOUPMENT OF PRIOR PREFINANCED PROJECTS
AND PROGRAMS WHICH HERETOFORE THEY HAVE SUPPORTED AND
FUNDED IN SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE HEARINGS BOTH THE ARMED

SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES STRONGLY EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS IN THESE MATTERS IN THEIR COMMITTEE REPORTS, MOST ESPECIALLY THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, BOTH OF WHICH ADDRESSED THESE SUBJECTS IN CONSIDERABLE DEPTH. (SENATE REPORT NO. 95-125 AND HOUSE REPORT NO. 95-388)

3. AS AN OUTGROWTH OF THESE CONCERNS THE SENATE IMPOSED A REQUIREMENT FOR AN IN-DEPTH REPORT ON TOTAL FUTURE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION NEEDS IN EUROPE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THE FY 1979 MILCON AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM IN JANUARY 1978. THE PERTINENT EXTRACT IS HEREWITH QUOTED IN ITS ENTIRETY: QUOTE

THE COMMITTEE WAS PERPLEXED TO LEARN OF THE HUGE BACKLOG OF CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE NATO ALLIANCE. THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED FACILITIES TO THE ALLIANCE AT THE RATE OF DOLLAR 300 MILLION TO DOLLAR 400 MILLION PER YEAR OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND THE UNITED STATES HAD UNILATERALLY FUNDED APPROXIMATELY AN ADDITION DOLLAR 100 MILLION PER YEAR FOR ITS OWN FORCES. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITION THE OFFSET PROGRAM, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY COMPLETED, ENABLED MANY TROOP HOUSING FACILITIES IN GERMANY TO BE UPGRADED.

THE COMMITTEE HEREBY PUTS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ON NOTICE THAT IT SHOULD NOT EXPECT GREATLY INCREASED

AUTHORIZATIONS FROM CONGRESS TO ADDRESS THE BACKLOG OF CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS IN NATO. IF THE BACKLOG IS TO BE ADDRESSED IT MUST BE DONE THROUGH THE NATO FORUM--EITHER A SIZABLE INCREASE IN THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM OR A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE JUST CONCLUDED OFFSET PROGRAM.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE FOR THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE THIS DILEMMA AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE:

1. A DISCUSSION OF THE CONSTRUCTION BACKLOG FOR US FORCES IN EUROPE TO INCLUDE A BREAKOUT BY SERVICE BY MAJOR CATEGORY WITH SOME INDICATION OF WHO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION

(UNITED STATES, NATO, OR HOST NATION);

2. A REASONABLE APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG
(WHAT WOULD BE THE ANNUAL FUNDING LEVELS AND FROM
WHAT SOURCES?); AND

,
3. WHAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE OR CAN BE MADE
TO INCREASE NATO AND/OR HOST NATION PARTICIPATION?

THE COMMITTEE WOULD EXPECT THIS REPORT TO BE
FURNISHED TO THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE
SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE
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NEXT MILITARY CONSTRUCTION REQUEST IS SUBMITTED TO
CONGRESS. UNQUOTE

4. USNATO AND USCINCEUR SHOULD DEVELOP A UNIFIED
AND COORDINATED RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEES
REQUIREMENT UTILIZING THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION
OF ADDRESSEES AS APPROPRIATE. MR. EVAN R.
HARRINGTON, DIRECTOR, FACILITIES PROGRAMMING,
OASD/MRA&L MUST HAVE THIS PROPOSED COORDINATED
RESPONSE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15, 1977. FOR
PURPOSES OF GENERAL GUIDANCE AND WITH RESPECT
TO POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE OFF-SET AGREEMENTS
WITH THE FRG MENTIONED IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT,
IT IS THE VIEW HERE THAT THE PROBABILITY OF ANY
SUCCESS IN OBTAINING FINANCING OF US FACILITIES
BY OUR ALLIES OUTSIDE THE NATO INFRASTRUC-
TURE PROGRAM IS VERY REMOTE. YOUR VIEWS ON
THIS, HOWEVER, WILL BE WELCOMED.

5. MILITARY DEPARTMENTS ARE REQUESTED TO
AUTHORIZE DIRECT LIAISON BETWEEN UNCINCEUR AND
SPECIFIED COMMANDS.

6. THIS IS A JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE.

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